

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

SB 616 - HB 672

March 16, 2017

SUMMARY OF BILL: Authorizes a county election commission to utilize various methods to verify a voter's change of address. Authorizes online voter registration prior to July 1, 2017. Authorizes persons aged 60 years or older to request an absentee ballot under certain circumstances. Requires applicants for an absentee ballot to provide the last four digits of their social security number instead of their full social security number.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-2-106(b), a county election commission is responsible for implementing an address verification program to identify any voter who has changed their address of residence without notifying the election commission.
- The proposed language would prescribe methods which county election commissions can utilize to verify addresses of voters for the purpose of updating the address verification program.
- According to the Department of State, county election commissions are currently utilizing these methods to determine a voter's address; as a result, there will be no significant fiscal impact to local government.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-2-112, beginning July 1, 2017, an applicant may submit an online voter registration application through a website established by the state Coordinator of Elections.
- The proposed language would authorize submission of online voter registration applications prior to July 1, 2017.
- It is assumed online voter registration applications would be accepted only if the website established by the state Coordinator of Election is capable of receiving such applications prior to July 1, 2017; therefore, no significant increase in state expenditures is estimated for accepting online voter registration prior to July 1, 2017.
- Under current law, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-6-201(5), certain persons aged 65 years of age or older are authorized to vote absentee. The proposed language would extend applicability to persons aged 60 years and older.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-6-202(a)(3)(D), when applying for an absentee ballot, applicants must provide certain information including their social security number. The

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proposed language would only require the applicant to provide the last four digits of their social security number.

- Applicants for an absentee ballot submit certain information in writing, no specific applications are established; therefore, no increase in state expenditures will be required for printing new absentee ballot applications.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista M. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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